This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   **(Previously presented)**   A method comprising:

establishing e-mail communication between a sender device and a receiver device which both have access to the Public Switched Telephone Network, without the need of being connected to the Internet, further comprising the steps of:

A) establishing a data link, and point-to-point (PPP) connection between the sender and receiver devices; and

B) transferring one or more e-mail message(s) from the sender device to the receiver device over TCP/IP.

2.   **(Previously presented)**   A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

C) composing one or more electronic mail messages on the sender device through a graphical user interface (GUI) application;

D) setting up a telephone connection and data link from the sender device to the receiver device;

E) accepting an electronic mail message from the sender device by the receiver device;

F) storing an electronic mail message on the receiver device;

G) terminating the data link and telephone connection;

H) perceptibly indicating that an electronic mail message has been received by the receiver device; and

I) visually presenting the electronic mail message, including attached files, by a graphical

user interface (GUI) application on the receiver device.

3. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

    J) retrieving the telephone number of the receiver device from a database.

4. – 8. **(Cancelled)**

9. **(Previously presented)** Method of establishing e-mail communication according to claim 1, further comprising establishing communication from a central host device to sender and receiver devices at remote locations, all with access to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), without the need of being connected to the Internet, and allowing the collection of information from meters, including the steps of:

    a) setting up a telephone connection from the central host device to the sender and receiver devices at the remote locations;

    b) accepting a call by the receiver device;

    c) establishing a data link, and point-to-point (PPP) connection between the sender and receiver devices;

    d) transferring information to the host device over TCP/IP;

    e) terminating the data link and telephone call;

    f) updating of the database by the host device with the received information.

10. **(Previously presented)** Method of establishing e-mail communication according to claim 1, further comprising establishing communication among a central host device and sender and receiver devices at remote locations, all with access to the Public Switched Telephone NetWork (PSTN), without the need of being connected to the Internet, and allowing the transfer

of information from meters to the central host device, including the steps of:

       a) setting up a telephone connection to the central host device by the device at the remote location;

       b) accepting a call by the host device;

       c) establishing a data link, and point-to-point (PPP) connection between the sender and receiver devices;

       d) transferring information to the host device over TCP/IP;

       e) terminating the data link and telephone call;

       f) updating of the database by the host device with the received information.

11. **(Currently Amended)** Stand-alone apparatus ~~to be installed at the remote location~~ which is able to perform all the applicable steps presented in claim 9, both as receiver and sender device<u>, at the remote locations</u>.

12. **(Currently Amended)** Host apparatus ~~to be installed at the site of the central host device~~ which is able to perform all the applicable steps <u>of the central host device</u> presented in claim 9, ~~both as receiver and sender device~~ <u>at the site of central host device</u>.

13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Previously presented)** Method of providing automated network functionality of an in-house main network as a TeleMail-based application, comprising the steps of:

       a) connecting a System Control Unit to a TeleMail device, and to the in-house main network, which TeleMail device is capable of performing the steps of the receiver device in claim 1;

       b) inserting Appliance Control Units between controlled appliances, and to the in-

house main network;

c) installing and configuring a TeleControl application which provides a Graphical User Interface (GUI) program on the TeleMail device;

d) invoking the TeleControl Graphical User Interface (GUI) program;

e) activating controls in the Graphical User Interface (GUI), which are directly related to an addressable appliance;

f) invoking a Common Gateway Interface (GCI) process on the TeleMail device, to transfer an instruction to the addressed appliance through the System Control Unit, and the main network, to the Appliance Control Unit;

g) receiving and evaluating instructions by the Appliance Control Unit, which instructions are sent as one or more e-mail message(s) by a sender to the TeleMail device, as receiver, using a method of claim 1;

h) executing of the instructions by the Appliance Control Unit;

i) closing of the TeleControl Graphical User Interface program.

15. **(Previously presented)** Method according to claim 14 further comprising automating the control over the controlled appliances at a receiver device location addressed by a TeleControl application, and connected to an in-house main network by means of a Scheduler as an integrated function of a Graphical User Interface (GUI) application, comprising the steps of:

a) invoking the TeleControl Graphical User Interface program;

b) activating the Scheduler control in the TeleControl Graphical User Interface program;

c) invoking and presenting the Scheduler Graphical User Interface;

d) configuring the Scheduler;

e) scheduling of actions at user-definable moments, and at user-definable fixed or irregular intervals;

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f) closing of the Scheduler Graphical User Interface;

g) closing of the TeleControl Graphical User Interface program;

h) independently background executing the scheduled actions by the Scheduler function.

16. **(Previously presented)** Stand-alone or TeleMail-integrated System Control Unit to be connected to the TeleMail device, and to the main network, which is able to perform all the applicable steps presented in claim 14.

17. **(Previously presented)** Stand-alone or appliance-integrated Appliance Control Unit to be connected to the addressed appliance, and to the main network, which is able to perform all the applicable steps presented in claim 14.

18. **(Previously presented)** Method according to claim 14 wherein the System Control Unit identifier is unique, and the Appliance Control Unit has an assignable identifier in order to allow the method to uniquely qualify a home automation network, and the member Appliance Control Units connected to it.

19. (Cancelled)

20. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for performing the method of claim 1, which apparatus is connected to a computer through an interface and which is independently able to perform the steps, both as receiver and sender device, of:

A) establishing a data link, and point-to-point (PPP) connection between the sender and receiver devices; ~~and~~

B) transferring one or more e-mail message(s) from the sender device to the receiver device

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over TCP/IP;

D) setting up a telephone connection and data link from the sender device to the receiver device;

E) accepting a call by the receiver device;

F) storing of electronic mail message(s) on the receiver device; and

G) terminating the data link and telephone connection.

21. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the interface is a RS-232 interface.

22. **(Previously presented)** The apparatus of claim 20, which is further able to perform the steps of:

C) composing one or more electronic mail messages on the sender device through a graphical user interface (GUI) application;

I) visually presenting the electonic mail message, including attached files, by a graphical user interface (GUI) application on the receiver device; and

J) retrieving the telephone number of the receiver from a database.

23. **(Previously presented)** Stand-alone apparatus to be installed at the remote location which is able to perform all the applicable steps presented in claim 10, both as receiver and sender device.

24. **(Previously presented)** Host apparatus to be installed at the site of the central host device which is able to perform all the applicable steps presented in claim 9, both as receiver and sender device.